

County Hospital Gives Progress Report

Wave Thur 29 Oct 1970

The new Wasatch County Hospital is now well over one year old and today presents an outstanding picture of hospital care in the rural community. Not only has the establishment of this excellent facility improved in a large measure the available hospital care but it has also been instrumental in the improvement of medical care in general throughout the Wasatch County area.

In order to keep the public informed regarding progress at the hospital, the Board of Trustees outlined the following significant programs and achievements which have been developed and administered by Mr. Fred Schloss since the opening of the hospital.

First, during the past six months an extensive program of inservice education has taken place to improve the standards and capabilities of employees in many of the departments. As an example, the hospital consulting dietician has just completed a course for all dietary personnel. Nursing personnel have also participated in these continuing education programs with the end result that nursing care has improved to a great extent since the opening of the hospital.

Second, an outstanding physical therapy department has been developed which now provides both inpatient and outpatient treatment for those individuals suffering from illnesses or accidents requiring special therapy treatments. At the present time the Physical Therapist is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Third, a program has now been developed and approved by the Board of Trustees of the hospital wherein the emergency room is staffed with a physician on the premises for all week ends of the year. During the summer months the physician will be available from noon Saturday through 6:00 a. m. on Monday morning. During the winter months the time is cut short and is over at 8:00 p. m. on Sunday evening. The physicians used in this program are generally outstanding medical students in specialty training who are licensed to practice medicine in the state of Utah. Not only do they provide this weekend coverage by they also bring with them new ideas and

methods which have been most helpful to both the local physicians and the nursing personnel. The reason behind the development of this program was the need to provide some relief for the local physicians on week end since they furnished emergency coverage all during the week. Although it is somewhat early yet to completely evaluate the overall results of this program, there have been some good indications that it does fill a need and will be of great value.

Fourth, the nursing staff are in the process of providing a special class of expectant mothers. This type of activity has been highly successful in many of the Utah hospitals and will provide an opportunity for both the expectant mother and the father to become familiar with the hospital premises and hospital policy prior to the birth of the child.

Fifth, in order to render the best possible care in a small rural hospital, it becomes necessary to obtain the services of special consultants to help provide specialized evaluation and training. Wasatch County Hospital has on its staff at the present time a consulting Pathologist, Dr. Richard A. Call, with the Utah Valley Hospital; a consulting Radiologist, Dr. Harris Bernhisel, a private practitioner in Salt Lake City; a consulting Cardiologist, Dr. Roy E. McDonald, a private practitioner in Salt Lake City, and finally

a consulting Dietician, Mrs. Margaret Sullivan who resides in Provo and also provides her services for a Long Term Care Unit in Provo. All of these professionals have been instrumental in providing extensive assistance in their specialty areas.

Sixth, a recent new addition at the hospital is the provision for complete control of the operation of the new Wasatch Co. Ambulance. By direction of the County Commissioners, the ambulance will be serviced and scheduled out of the hospital. A group of nine ambulance drivers are now in the process of specialty training and will rotate on a schedule which should provide constant coverage. Each ambulance trip will have the services of a trained driver and a trained nursing attendant.

(Continued on Back Page)

